

***The Mission of VTDDC
is to help build connections
and supports that bring people
with developmental disabilities
and their families into the heart
of Vermont communities.***



We Believe...

***In communities where all people
have a “voice” and are heard with
respect.***

***In safe communities where
all people have equal value.***

***In communities that are friendly
and support equality and
fulfilling relationships.***

***With opportunities, people
grow and share their dreams,
abilities; and***

***That the humanity we share
is more important than
our different abilities.***

For more information about

***VTDDC’s Mission,
Public Policy Priorities,
and Projects contact us at***

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VTDDC

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Member



And funded by



**2012
Public Policy
Priorities**



About VTDDC and its Priorities

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council is a state-wide board that works to increase public awareness about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families. 14 of its 23 members are self-advocates and family members.

VTDDC follows the federal definition of developmental disability:

A disability that begins before age 22 that substantially affects three or more activities of daily life such as self-care, communication, movement, learning, self-direction, independent living, and employment.

The following Priorities are based on what Vermonters told VTDDC in extensive outreach during 2011. 283 people from across Vermont participated in a survey about what needed to happen and over 150 attended forums held around the state. The Priorities are embedded in **VTDDC's 5 Year Plan (2012-2016)** that guides its systems advocacy work and the projects it funds.



Priority 1

PUT PEOPLE FIRST! Assure that Vermonters with developmental disabilities have individualized supports they need to work, live and thrive

- *Live up to Vermont's Developmental Disabilities Act and promises made when Brandon Training School closed to end segregation and provide supports in the community.*
- *Stem the trend towards segregated congregate day services and contracted wrap services.*
- *Restore and expand flexible supports and options for children, adults and families.*
- *Require full and complete analysis of the impact of changes in funding priorities and cuts on the lives of people, including families, support staff and home providers.*
- *Restore funding to peer and family organizations for cost-effective support.*

Priority 2

End waiting lists of Vermonters in need of developmental services

- *Provide a transparent application and decision process for services.*
- *Require a state-wide analysis of service and support needs of people on current waiting lists and those receiving minimal Flexible Family Funding.*
- *Develop a plan to address needs of people on any wait list.*

Priority 3

People with developmental disabilities need quality supports and well trained staff to be treated with dignity and respect and have opportunities to be part of community life

- *Restore state level quality assurance staff so there are reviews that are not crisis driven.*
- *Restore state-wide oversight of training and develop direct service standards so people are assured quality person directed services no matter where they live or who the provider is.*

Priority 4

Vermonters with developmental disabilities need to be able to work for more hours and more pay in jobs they choose

- *Make employment a funding priority for all, not just graduates.*
- *Restore job development positions and invest in other customized resources.*
- *Restore cuts to individual job supports to increase the rate and hours people are working.*

Priority 5

Vermont needs an independent information, referral and assistance source for people with disabilities and family members

- *Support a specialized link that ensures people with developmental disabilities and their families get unbiased information on how to get started & navigate complicated systems.*